

# Persevering Faith (Genesis 49:22-26)

**Keep Your Dream Alive – Part 9**  
**Life Church St. Louis – November 10, 2013**  
**Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker**

*Hebrews 3:12-14 (NIV) See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.*

*Matthew 24:12-14 (NIV) Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

## 1. \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to God and His dream for you

*Genesis 37:6-7 (NIV) He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."*

*Psalms 105:17-19 (NIV) and he sent a man before them-- Joseph, sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the LORD proved him true.*

*Genesis 42:9 (NIV) Then he remembered his dreams about them and said to them ...*

## 2. Stand \_\_\_\_\_ in your faith

*Acts 7:9-10 (NIV) "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.*

*Genesis 49:22-24 (NIV) Joseph is a fruitful vine, a fruitful vine near a spring, whose branches climb over a wall. With bitterness archers attacked him; they shot at him with hostility. But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,*

*Genesis 49:3-4 (NIV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might, the first sign of my strength, excelling in honor, excelling in power. Turbulent as the waters, you will no longer excel, for you went up onto your father's bed, onto my couch and defiled it.*

## 3. \_\_\_\_\_ God for great things

*Genesis 49:25-26 (NIV) because of your father's God, who helps you, because of the Almighty, who blesses you with blessings of the heavens above, blessings of the deep that lies below, blessings of the breast and womb. Your father's blessings are greater than the blessings of the ancient mountains, than the bounty of the age-old hills. Let all these rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the prince among his brothers.*

*Genesis 50:24-25 (NIV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place."*

*Hebrews 11:22 (NIV) By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.*

*Joshua 24:32 (NIV) And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants.*

# Persevering Faith (Genesis 49:22-26) Study Guide

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Intro. What can cause faith to fail (Hebrews 3:12-14)?

What can you do to have persevering faith (Hebrews 3:2-14)?

What will happen in the last days to most people's faith (Matthew 24:12-14)? What must you do to be saved?

What challenges have you faced to your faith in life?

1A. In what ways did Joseph's dreams prepare him for God's future plans for his life (Genesis 37:6-7)?

1B. What does Psalm 105:17-19 tell you about God's guidance in Joseph's life?

1C. Why do you think God's Word tells us that Joseph remembered his dreams about his brothers when he saw them (Genesis 42:9)?

1D. How does God communicate His dreams for our lives today?

2A. How does Acts 7:9-10 summarize the obstacles that Joseph overcame to see his dreams fulfilled?

2B. In Jacob's prophetic word for his son Joseph, what stands out for you (Genesis 49:22-24)?

2C. How did Reuben forfeit his birthright, God's dream for his life (Genesis 49:3-4)?

2D. In what ways has God's dream for your life been attacked?

3A. Explain the many ways that Joseph's life was blessed through his persevering faith (Genesis 49:25-26)?

3B. How was Joseph's faith demonstrated in his last wishes (Genesis 50:24-25)?

3C. Why is it significant that Joseph's last wishes were included in Hebrews 11:22? See also Hebrews 11:13.

3D. How did Joseph's faith become a blessing for his descendants (Joshua 24:32)? How do you see your faith being a blessing for future generations?